

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08560 151538Z  
ACTION NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W  
----- 011882 /53

O R 151503Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 941

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8560

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: USIS DAMASCUS WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION: WITH INCREASING SIGNS THAT NORMALCY IS GRADUALLY RETURNING TO LEBANON (PHONE COMMUNICATIONS TO BEIRUT WERE RESTORED DURING THE WEEK); ATTENTION OF LOCAL PRESS TURNING TO SUCH QUESTIONS AS NEW SHAPE OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, NEXT STEP IN AREA PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, LOCAL ECONOMIC WOES. MANY SYRIAN CONTACTS ANTICIPATE NEW AMERICAN INITIATIVE AFTER JANUARY 20, THOUGH RECENT EDITORIAL IN ONE DAMASCUS NEWSPAPER WARNED PUBLIC NOT TO PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN AMERICAN INITIATIVES. MORE DIRECTLY ON MINDS OF MOST SYRIANS DURING PAST WEEK WAS 63 PER CENT INCREASE IN PRICE OF GASOLINE AND ANTICIPATED RISE IN COST OF LIVING WHICH WILL INEVITABLY RESULT.

2. PROGRAM: VOLSPKR OCTAVE DUTEMPLE, SECRETARY OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY, WAS PROGRAMMED IN DAMASCUS DECEMBER 7-10. THOUGH DUTEMPLE WAS NOT REALLY QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS OVERALL U.S. ENERGY POLICY, HE WAS MOST USEFUL IN MAKING CONTACT WITH THE FLEDGLING SYRIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE. HE ESTABLISHED A PROMISING LINK BETWEEN SYRIAN AEC AND THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY, AND ENCOURAGED SYRIANS TO ATTEND FORTHCOMING SHIRAZ CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY SPONSORED BY WESTERN NUCLEAR ENERGY CONCERNS. ALSO SEE SEPTTEL.

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3. PIANIST RICHARD TETLEY-KARDOS WAS RESOUNDING

SUCCESS IN TWO DAMASCUS PERFORMANCES. SELECT GROUP  
OF SYRIAN OFFICIALS, MUSIC-LOVERS, DIPLOMATS, ATTENDED  
HOME CONCERT DEC 13 AT PAO RESIDENCE. NEXT EVENING,  
NEARLY 400 PERSONS (THE LARGEST AUDIENCE TO VIEW A  
WESTERN ATTRACTION OUTSIDE THE DAMASCUS FAIR SINCE  
BENNY CARTER) ATTENDED MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE AT CITY'S  
LARGEST PERMANENT CONCERT SITE. SEE SEPTTEL.  
KEITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
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